challenges for airport infrastructure and airspace management, specially at busy airport such as New Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) The infrastructure at airports is being upgraded by strengthening and extending the runways, apron for more parking of aircraft, parallel taxi track and rapid exit taxi tracks to improve upon runway occupancy. The capacities of Terminal Buildings are also being expanded by construction of new Terminal Buildings with modular design and modifying/ expanding existing terminals.

Dedicated Airports Express Rail Link in Hyderabad

489. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the largest status of the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government to develop a Dedicated Airport Express Rail Link (DAERL) from existing Begumpet Airport to the new Rajeev Gandhi International Airport; and

(b) the time likely to be taken to accord approval for leasing land at the existing Begumpet Airport for DAERL on long term basis and for implementing the DAERL project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government and it is under examination.

Fuel surcharge imposed by private airlines

490. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies have reduced the price of Air Tubine Fuel (ATF) by 4 per cent in the last week of December, 2007;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the fuel surcharge on tickets has not been reduced by the airlines;

(c) whether private airlines are cheating the passengers by overcharging from passengers and the 4 per cent reduction on ATF is going into their kitty; and

(d) if so, whether Government would issue strict instructions to private players to reduce fuel surcharge on tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Price of ATF was reduced by about 4% in the month of Dec., 2007.

(b) to (d) The Government is not regulating fares of the Airlines. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

Air services from Visakhapatnam during night

491. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has expedited the process for operating the air services from the Visakhapatnam Airport during night time;

(b) whether his Ministry is facing any shortage of skilled and technical manpower to operate the services during night time from the existing airport at Visakhapatnam;

(c) the reasons in delay for not operating the services during the night time; and